

Nation

Halloween Issue



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STANDING UP FOR OUR RIGHTS

Over the past few years there have been some unsettling developments taking place that could affect myself, my home community of Attawapiskat on the James Bay coast and other First Nations people across the country. There are new political movements at the provincial and national levels of government that are making great changes. A lot of these changes, especially at the national level, will have a huge impact on Native people.

In British Columbia, a new government has been elected that seems to want to undo all the work that has been done to create positive relations with First Nations people. It is disturbing to see the newly elected British Columbia government disrupt the positive and beneficial working relationship and communication that their province has created with First Nation leaders and communities over the past few years. Recently this government initiated a controversial referendum on treaty negotiations to all of the people of British Columbia. The information that was distributed to the people of British Columbia created a lot of confusion and negative perceptions of Native people and the treaty developments that are taking place in the province. In fact the referendum survey was racist in tone and has only managed to raise emotions of hate and intolerance.

At the national level, the federal government has initiated a development to introduce new changes to the Indian Act, under the so-called aim of creating more political and financial accountability. The Indian Act sets out certain federal responsibilities and obligations to First Nations people and their reserve lands. Many amendments, revisions and repeals to the Indian Act have taken place over the years since it was first passed in 1876 but proposed legislation that has been recently introduced will result in great change without the real involvement of Native leaders. Although many First Nation people do want change, these initiatives by the federal government are taking place quickly and with little support and the displeasure of Native leaders. The changes to the Indian Act, known as the First Nations Governance Act, was created with little input and support from First Nation leaders. Even without proper support the federal government is going ahead with the changes it wants to introduce.

The First Nations Governance Act is very difficult for our First Nations leaders to stomach. It continues with the same old condescending attitude where the government is directing changes and not allowing we First Nation people to make our own choices. You would think that in this day and age governments would realize that we should have most of the say in any changes to legislation that affects us. This is a dangerous trend that will not be beneficial for my people. Instead of honouring treaty rights and making it easier for First Nation people to have a share of the wealth in resources to become independent and self sufficient, the government is making new changes in the way we are governed without really taking into account what we have to say about it. Have we not learned from the past?

It is disheartening to see these changes taking place because I fear they will create a lot of difficulty for my people and will cast a negative light on Native people. Government initiatives such as the British Columbia referendum have created a lot of bad perceptions of First Nation developments and has spread fear and apprehension about First Nation initiatives.

It really is disheartening to have to deal with the right wing, narrow minded attitudes that are prevailing these days in Canadian government. Perhaps it is time that we reach out to other minorities, the labour movement, the environmental and conservation movement and our friends in government. We will need the support of many if we are to stand against the ugly trend that is threatening to shove aside the rights of Native people in this country.

Ed Note: Part Two of Just Who are the MooCreebec will return next issue. The latest development is that we have just learnt at press time that the MooCreebec Council have retained a lawyer to contest the results. We do not feel we can adequately cover this issue until all parties have been contacted.

By Xavier Katakapi

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Protesters at Hydro-Quebec
Photographer: Will Nicholls
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JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT WE WERE SAFE...

I happen to live in Whapmagoostui, where the weather is harsh at many times and fair on a few. The community depends on its resources and when those resources are down, times get even tougher. For example, just around Halloween last year, the power generating station caught fire and for several cold days, we all toughed it out with wood and plain old body heat. We are tough, and these type of situations just breed tougher people, besides, we were used to it, it had been at least the second time the station caught on fire.

At an earlier time, we actually had a forest fire across the river, but that is another story of trying times. This time around, we have to live in fear that we will have no long distance service, as the communication tower is precariously wavering in the strong north west winds. This calamity could have longer and much more far reaching consequences, for example:

- We cannot access our accounts at the bank nor make direct payments, so we cannot buy goodies like pop and cigarettes.

- We will not make our satellite receivers call for that late night blue movie, since it has to dial up first.

- Internet service will take the longest time ever to transmit anything, breaking all records, and for the first time ever, Canada Post mail service will actually be faster.

- Family members in the south will not be able to constantly call us for money.

- Long distance charges will drop dramatically, enabling many customers to finally afford that big skidoo they always wanted.

- We will not be even able to call to complain to Ma Bell as all lines of communication will be down.

- We will only be passive observers of the old tower when it comes down.

Speaking of towers coming down, the famous "stooge" tower (just outside of Whapmagoostui) owned by Bell Canada,

will actually have to come down with a little assistance from demolitions experts and a spectacular show with standing room only from a distance of two miles will be within a week of this writing!

Speaking of long distance calls, Ndiamon calls me with his voice wavering and lips trembling (I can just imagine that), telling me that the Fab Four who does production for the famous Rezolution Pictures International, have been whittled down to the Thrilling Three, who is just less one outstanding soundman, me. "Are you coming back?," he cries.

"Only during the coldest months of the year" I reply.

"We'll double your salary" he replies without a blink of the eye and with steel cold precision, tells me that I have a future in the movie making business and that the credits with my name on it at the end of the feature will take five minutes before another name pops up. Might as well call it SO Productions. I queried Ndiamon to see if there were any other special effects that may be needed for the next shooting of the series, since I kind of liked blowing up objects and creating large black clouds of billowing smoke. Perhaps, he replies, perhaps. I'll see if I can pull some strings at the top of the company and maybe, just maybe, you can use forty five gallons of highly explosive stuff.

"O.K. It's a deal" I'll blow up anything at this time just for an A rating and my rep as a pyrotechnic type of guy will soar. See you in December, Ndiamon and the other 2 dudes.

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The Nation
is published every two weeks
by **Beesum Communications**
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THANKS TO: Air Creebec, Jimmy, Satan and all politicians.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS

INDIVIDUALS & INSTITUTIONS: \$45
ABROAD: INDIVIDUALS: \$70 U.S.
ABROAD: INSTITUTIONS: \$85 U.S.
PAYABLE TO BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS

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PUBLICATION MAIL #40015005
ISSN #1206-2642

THE NATION IS A MEMBER OF:
THE JAMES BAY CREE COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY, CIRCLE OF
ABORIGINAL CONTROLLED PUBLISHERS, CANADIAN MAGAZINE
PUBLISHERS ASSN,
QUEBEC COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER ASSN,
CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS' ASSN
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The Nation

WEMINDJI HOSTS RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL CONFERENCE

NEWS



residential schools. He then elaborated on the history of Residential Schools for Aboriginal people across Canada. Later on in the afternoon Abraham facilitated another workshop called "Why Residential School?" and explained the intentions of the government and what choices the Cree people had.

Later on in the evening Charles and Hazel Esau with trainee Virginia Diamond held an evening of fun-packed activities at the community hall. Charles sang the blues while Hazel and Virginia played games and danced with the kids. After finishing the activities the three went to the coffee shop and packed the place with people by Virginia entertaining the crowd by singing Karaoke. "When the people

Wemindji's residential school project, called "Healing the Generations," began last March. It's a one year project that will address the effects of residential schools, and is funded by the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. Over the October 4-6 weekend, the Wemindji Wellness Center organized and hosted their first residential school local community conference. The conference was postponed twice due to conflicting dates, but with hard work and patience the conference was finally got underway.



seen Virginia sing and dance the crowd kept coming," said Kerri-Lynn and Flora, "it was so jam-packed in the coffee shop that the coffee machine broke."

On the final day, Hazel Esau hosted a workshop called "To heal the wounds." It was an information session on how to help each other. It was to take a look at

The Wemindji Conference was held in a traditional setting at kilometre 11, with plenty of traditional food and snacks to go around for those who attended. Organizers Kerri-Lynn Stewart and Flora Gilpin were pleased with the big turnout. There was plenty of food and entertainment, with the Old Factory Dancers square dancing.

The first day of the workshops began with Abraham Bearskin from Chisasibi facilitating a workshop called "The History of the Cree People of James Bay and Residential School." Abraham did a breakdown of the local historical facts of



by Marilyn Bearskin



the realities of what may happen as the community begins to address the legacy of the residential schools in the community. Hazel also talked about how to be a support person to someone and how important it is to listen.

Finally, Charles did a workshop called "What about our Children?" This workshop examined what was happening in the community at the present time and how the community was coping with the impact of residential schools. Charles asked the people that attended the workshop to look at the behavior of the children in the community and how the community can approach healing in a positive and safe manner.

The people were then put into discussion groups and later made presentations to the whole group by sharing their views and their observations of the community



and also voiced their opinions and recommendations on how to further pursue awareness on the effects and impacts of the Residential School Syndrome in the community.

The workshops ended with a closing circle. Everyone was given the opportunity to express what they had experienced at the conference, and the facilitators made themselves available for support to the participants. When all was said and done, Charles played a tribute song called "Took the children away." It was a very touching song. It was also very emotional for some. After all the hard work done over the weekend a closing feast and give away was done.



WEMINDJI HAS NEW DEPUTY CHIEF

Chief position contested but nobodies talking for now

Just who is the chief of Wemindji? The electoral officer says it is Reggie Mark, but apparently the matter may be taken to the courts. *The Nation* asked Chief Reggie Mark for an interview, but he said he couldn't comment or even issue a statement due to legal complications.

A re-count for Chief was requested and completed September 21. The results remained the same. So it was official, Reggie Mark is Chief of Wemindji for his second term. But candidate Walter Hughboy isn't satisfied with the results and will be taking further steps. Unfortunately the *Nation* couldn't reach Hughboy to for comment.

We did, however manage to talk to Deputy chief Rodney Mark. Mark entered the political arena in Wemindji's last election at the age of 28. He started off by running for Council in his community of Wemindji and got in as Deputy-Chief.

In the 2002 elections won a second term as Deputy Chief by receiving 62 per cent of the votes.

The Nation asked Rodney how he felt about being voted in a second term. "I was grateful I got in again for several reasons," he stated. "I still have some tasks from my first term that I would have left unfinished." Mark says the job is interesting because "it is intellectually challenging for me." Mark also feels his position opens a lot of doors for him. "I'm establishing contacts and resources for the community and also meeting professional people, that play a part in enhancing my intellectual understanding of the world, or of the operations of Bands," said Mark.

His main focus is education and training for his people which falls under a "Governance Project" that started in his first term. The whole idea of the Govern-

ance Project is for the Wemindji Band Council to be ultimately accountable to the people and facilitate or maximize benefits for the community members.

"Education and Training" is another priority, says Mark. "We have to create these kind of opportunities for our people to achieve a good quality way of life," said Mark. "If we educate our people we will be taking care of several issues, for instance our social issues we are faced with, like unemployment and alcoholism. I want the opportunity to be there for the people, but also our people have to be committed in doing it for themselves."

Mark knows the project won't happen right away but hopes it will evolve and have a positive impact on the community.

"I want to see this project implemented and come to the realization of working with it. In the long run I think it will benefit ourselves at the political level and also be of benefit to our people especially on how we deal with our community issues," said Mark.

September 17 Election results for Cree Nation of Wemindji.

Number of Ballots cast for Chief:

Walter Hughboy 272

Reggie Mark 297

Number of Ballots cast for Chief

Re-count results:

Walter Hughboy 272

Reggie Mark 297

Number of Ballots cast for Councillors

Rodney Mark 352

Danny Tomatuk 315

Dennis Georgekish 255

Tony Gull 231

Mark Wadden 206

Fred Asquabeneskum Sr.

196

By Marilyn Bearskin

Natives file \$12.5 billion lawsuit

A national class-action lawsuit has been launched in Ontario seeking more than \$12.5 billion in federal compensation for the 91,000 people who attended Indian residential schools across Canada.

The Assembly of First Nations, Canada's largest native organization is endorsing the claim. "The AFN will indicate to the courts they are supportive of it as a tool for adequately compensating school victims," said Craig Brown, one of four Toronto lawyers working on the claim.

The AFN will also be a valuable ally when it comes time to ask a judge to certify the claim, the first step in the class-action process, Brown said.

The claim seeks damages not only for every person who attended and Indian residential school between 1920 and 1996, but also for members of their families. It claims damages not only for physical and sexual abuse – the two areas that have so far yielded compensation in the courts – but also for a wide range of hardships, including forcible confinement, breach of treaty and loss of language and culture.

Brown said the lawsuit, initially filed against both Ottawa and the Christian churches that helped operate the schools, will be amended to include only the government as a defendant. A year ago, an Ontario judge refused to certify a residential school class action for former students of the Mohawk Institute Residential School near Brantford, Ont.

The judge ruled that the experiences of the students at the one school were not similar enough to enable them to sue as a class. That decision is under appeal.

Queens, Natives and history

The *Globe and Mail* reports on a special reunion – one that bridged the generations. One hundred and five years ago, a famed powwow dancer named Chief John Big Win from the Mnjikaning First Nation in Ontario performed for Queen Victoria at London's Crystal Palace in honour of her Golden Jubilee.

Last week, the chief's grandnephew escorted Queen Elizabeth II on her Golden Jubilee visit to Toronto. Jim Bartleman wasn't dancing – as the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, he is one of the highest-ranking Canadian aboriginals in public office – but he hoped he might have the



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Let us know:

Is there a powwow, gathering, festival, tournament or other community event that you want people to know about?

Is there something that the company or organization that you work for is doing that should be noticed by others in Native America?

Is there someone in your community such as an Elder or other role model that you think deserves to be recognized?

What are your politicians up to?

Is there something that is hurting Native people and needs to be brought to light so that it can be put to an end?

What issues (local, national, and international) do you think aren't getting the press they deserve?

Do you have a story that would make people laugh?

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****Confidentiality assured****

occasion to tell the Queen of his family's connection with hers.

"I have always heard the monarchy spoken of in positive terms by native peoples, and that's not surprising," Bartleman said. "Throughout Canadian and pre-Canadian history, the Crown to a great extent protected native people against the settlers, though they may have had altruistic purposes."

A royal proclamation in 1763 prohibited white settlers from buying land from individual native people, he noted, requiring that negotiations be with nations as a whole. "In the War of 1812, it was Anishnabe from Upper Canada plus huge numbers from the Ohio Valley under Tecumseh who flooded up and fought under General Brock, and prevented the Americans from taking Ontario."

Seventy native fighters from the area where he grew up, around Lake Simcoe, joined that battle. "They essentially saved Ontario from the Americans, and it was very much in their interest. If they hadn't, native people here in Ontario would have been expelled to the West just like in the States."

Bartleman's native relatives fought with the Crown in the Upper Canada Rebellion in 1837, while relatives on his white father's side were supporters of William Lyon Mackenzie. "My ancestor, Chief Thomas Nanegeshkung, of the Rama Indians, was mobilized with other Indian warriors from Rama to guard Upper Canada against Fenian invasions [in 1866] . . . Sir Francis Bond Head [lieutenant-governor in 1837] wanted to exile all native peoples in Southern Ontario. The Crown, prompted by the Anti-Slavery Society, stepped in and blocked that, and that isn't forgotten either."

Bartleman believes the connection between Canadians, native and non-, is as strong today as it was 150 years ago. "Societies need traditions and ceremonies to provide meaning to our lives; without that we are an empty shell," he said. "The monarchy is something above politics and has over the years provided a unifying force for Canada. It is as relevant today as it was 50 years ago when there were basically two national groups in Canada, the French and the English; now there are 185 groups in Ontario and . . . the Queen is still a unifying force."

Inuit suicide rate among world's highest

Canada's relatively low murder and sui-

cide rates mask a disturbing trend in suicides among Inuit people, says an Associated Press report on a World Health Organization study.

Among the Inuit people in northern Canada there were overall suicide rates of between 60 and 75 per 100,000 people, compared with 15 per 100,000 for the country's general population, the organization said. Overall in Canada, the report said the annual homicide rate for the general population was 1.4 per 100,000 people. That compares to a rate of 6.9 homicides per 100,000 in the U.S.

Globally, the report said that one person commits suicide about every 40 seconds, one person is murdered every 60 seconds and one person dies in armed conflict every 100 seconds. Youth homicides soared in the United States, many Latin American countries and the former Soviet bloc but stabilized or decreased in much of Western Europe and Canada, the report said.

The UN health agency, in what it described as the most exhaustive international study into the problem of violent or self-inflicted deaths, examined the extent of violence in homes and on streets, the abuse of children and the elderly, suicide and war.

WHO now hopes to help governments mount national prevention campaigns focusing on young people. The report estimated that 815,000 people killed themselves in 2000 — making suicide the No. 13 cause of death worldwide. People older than 60 were most likely to take their own life.

On average, men were three times more likely to kill themselves than women. About 10 per cent of people who attempt suicide eventually kill themselves, it said. The highest suicide rates were in eastern Europe, while the lowest were in Latin America. But this masked big differences between rural and urban populations and different racial and ethnic groups within countries — as the figures within Canada's Inuit population showed.

Federal negotiators back at table with Lubicon

In a major step forward for Lubicon Lake Indian Nation treaty settlement talks, the province is set to join negotiations in October.

The *Herald-Tribune* of Grande Prairie, Alberta, reports that agreement on bilateral issues between the Lubicon and the federal government reached conclusion Sept. 20, the same day Indian Affairs Minister Robert Nault made his first visit to

Briefs

the impoverished community at Little Buffalo, about 100 kilometres east of Peace River.

The latest round of federal talks for northern Alberta's oldest outstanding First Nation settlement claim resumed in 1998, stalling repeatedly over the last four years. Nailing down the bilateral federal issues and moving to the next phase "is good news," veteran Lubicon advisor Fred Lennarson said.

Negotiations with the federal team and the Lubicon last broke down over a couple of technical issues after a January meeting. No further talks were held until Sept. 11, the week before Nault's community visit.

Technical committee work continued throughout the following week, with the last issues resolved Friday before Nault's visit, Lennarson said.

The two parties now have agreement on how Lubicon band membership is to be determined and the scope of a new community to be built at the First Nation's historical home-base at Lubicon Lake. Reserve lands, economic development and compensation packages, and a wildlife and environmental management agreement over traditional Lubicon territory are up for discussion once the province comes to the table.

If the province is serious about settling talks could proceed rapidly, Lennarson said.

"If they want to get it done, it will not be hard to do," he said.

Issues with the province have already all been settled at one time or another, Lennarson said. An agreement reached with former Alberta premier Don Getty in 1988, saw the province offer a 246-square-kilometre reserve and an acceptable economic development agreement, he said.

Land is a key issue for the Lubicon and the federal government does support the First Nation's request for a 246-square-kilometre reserve, chief federal negotiator for the settlement claim Brad Morse said. The Grimshaw Accord reached 14 years ago was never legally binding, Morse said, but "it was understood by the parties that it was an appropriate resolution to the land issue... and we will stand by that."

Nault was well received in Little Buffalo and final settlement for the Lubicon "is of particularly great personal interest to him," Morse said. The claim is now 63 years old and Nault "appreciates that without the creation of a reserve the Lubicon Lake Indian Nation is still in this clearly unacceptable situation in Little Buffalo," Morse said.

THE SPOOKY STORY OF HALLOWE'EN

BY
MELORA KOEPKE



Two thousand long years ago, the Celtic tribes of England, Ireland and France started their New Year at the end of their harvest and at the beginning of the cold winter months. In these parts of the old world, the new calendar year started on November 1. Their New Year's Eve festival, which was held on October 31st, was called Samhain. Even in ancient times, Samhain was a spooky holiday: the Celts believed that all the laws of time and space were suspended for this one special night, to allow the spirits of all who had died in the past year to walk the earth again, commune with the loved ones they left behind, and settle old scores! Naturally, the living didn't much want to be possessed with the spirits of the dead, so they put out the fires in their hearths so that the spirits would find

their houses cold and unwelcoming. Then, they dressed up in ghoulish masks and ran amok in the dark outside, carrying lanterns and torches. The idea was to discourage the dead from possessing them. Another reason the Celts extinguished their fires, according to Historians, is so they could all be re-lit from the same Druid fire which was kept eternally burning in a sacred site in the middle of Ireland.

The pagan traditions of Hallowe'en evolved and were assimilated into other October festivals in the Catholic church. For Catholics, November 1st is the Day of All Saints or All Hollows Day, so October 31st is called All Hollows Eve, or Hallowe'en.

The fun of Hallowe'en was brought to North America by the Irish immigrants who came over in the 1840s to escape the potato famine. The kids (and young at heart) would try to trick their neighbours into believing their land was haunted by playing pranks on them, including tipping over the outhouses and unhinging the gates so they would blow in the wind and make spooky creaking sounds.

Those were the tricks.

The treats tradition probably came not from the Celts, but from the Catholics. In the ninth century, early Christian beggars would travel from village to village on November 2nd begging for "soul cakes" (November 2nd was All Souls' day, after All Hollows Day – get it? Catholics have a special day every day).

The treats tradition probably came not from the Celts, but from the Catholics. In the 9th century, early Christian beggars

would travel from village to village on November 2nd begging for "soul cakes" (November 2nd was All Souls' day, after All Hollows Day – get it? Catholics have a special day every day). A soul cake was a piece of bread with currants (little raisins) which the lady of the house would give to the beggar. In return, he would promise to say prayers for the souls of the donor's loved ones to make it into Heaven safely.

As for the Jack 'o Lanterns, they were another way to keep bad things from happening. Legend has it that a guy named Jack, who was a notorious drunk and a trickster and a cheat. One day, he met the devil on the road, and tricked him up a tree. Jack was angry because he held the devil responsible for his own bad habits; once the devil was up the tree, Jack carved a cross into the trunk and only let Satan come down if he promised never to lead Jack into temptation again...

When poor Jack died, Heaven wouldn't let him in because of all the sinning he did. But Hell wouldn't have him either, because the devil still held that tree-trickery against him.

But to be a good sport, he gave Jack an ember to light his cold, dark way back to Earth. Jack put the ember into a hollowed turnip to keep it burning. Some say he still walks around on All Hallow's Eve with his glowing vegetable.

The Irish immigrants brought their glowing vegetables to America, but they found that here, pumpkins were bigger and more plentiful, and made better lamps.

Do you want to make sure the only spooks and spirits that invade your house on Hallowe'en are the friendly kind? Well then, you only have a few days to make your house a terrible, ghoulish and uninvited place for all those ghosts to be – and they'll avoid you too if you make sure to dress up really scarily. Read on for the Nation's best ideas for costumes and to haunt-if you house.

Haunting your house and other spooky Hallowe'en ideas

Ideally, haunted houses are those creaky abandoned mansions high up on a hill that the kids in town all know not to go near... You can transform your own house so spookily that it's not recognizable as the warm, inviting nest that welcomes guests the rest of the year. The best way to accomplish a house hauntify-ing is through the ancient art we call "goo-ifying." Goo-ifying is the



opposite of the Catholic rite of exorcism, in which priests come in and sanctify a space by mumbling and throwing holy water around. Mumbling is fine, mind you, but the substances you have around should be homemade versions of ghastly goo: ghost blood, spook splurge, beastie eyeballs and witch wash, wormy apples, (fake) blood and the like. These substances are not as hard to find as you might think.

It doesn't take a lot of money or special spell-casting abilities to spookify your house. With a little bit of effort and ingenuity you can decorate your space so that the familiar seems unfamiliar, and therefore eeeeeeeerie. You'd be surprised at how many everyday objects can be used to make special hallowe'en purposes and uses objects and noises and smells.

Spook snacks:

What colour is ghost blood? Clear, because ghosts have no bodies, of course. Often, it tastes just like Sprite.

Spook Splurge can be made out of green jello-o when it's still in the runny phase. Put it in a bowl and make sure you eat it with your hands.

Beastie eyeballs are made by peeling grapes and keeping them lukewarm in the oven. Put them in a bowl and look at them in the dark. Mmmm, yummy.

Witch wash is a wormy, clammy substance that you should wash your hands with in the dark. Washing your hands in it is a good way to start gooifying. Cook some spaghetti until it's pasty (several minutes longer than it says to on the package) and then wait till it gets really cold and put it in a bowl. Feels just like brains.

Here is a recipe for fake blood: it's not terribly tasty, but it is edible:

5 tablespoons corn starch

2/3 cup corn syrup

1/3 cup water

4 teaspoons red food coloring

a couple of drops green food coloring

Mix the corn starch with the water, make sure it is totally mixed, then add the corn syrup, again make sure it is mixed well. Add red food coloring into the mixture, then add a couple drops of green food coloring to take the "pink" edge off the red coloring.

Decorating:

The most important thing about a haunted house is the lighting. Think about it; we all know that friends' faces look spooky by a campfire even if you just shine a flashlight in their mouths. Some good ways to spookify your lighting: putting coloured scarves over the lamps (make sure the fabric is not touching the bulb!). Make lots of Jack o' lanterns, and you can even make re-usable lanterns by cutting designs into old tin cans and putting candles into them. Get the kind of candles (called votive candles) that are short with a metal base around them – they last a long time and are safe enough to put inside little paper bags on which you've painted witches and skeletons. And when all else fails, strings of those cheap Christmas lights (red, of course) and lots of candles will do the trick.

A couple of scarecrows add a touch of lifelessness to any gathering: stuff some old clothes with straw or bunched-up newspapers and give them heads made of wrap some balled-up newspaper with duct tape and draw or glue a face onto it. Or, you can make papier-mache heads around a balloon (then you can hollow out the round head shape by popping the balloons, carve out faces with an x-acto knife, and run a string of lights through the head to light up the faces.

Hang lots of bouncy bats and ghost lollipops from the ceiling with rubber bands (see diagrams).

You can also blow up surgical rubber gloves and hang them low so that they brush people's necks as they walk by (ick!). Glue plastic bugs onto the fingers for that special back-from-the-grave effect... Drape your un-scary walls with cheap black, plastic sheeting or lots of opened-out black garbage bags. Also, cover your windows so too much light doesn't come into your haunted house.

Making a life-sized coffin is a fun project: Use an old refrigerator box and cut out the panel sections with X-acto knives and glued them together using a hot glue gun. Spray-paint the outside black (You can also paint the inside black or red). Or, use plywood if you want to get really fancy. Make a lid for your coffin, and make hinges out of duct tape to attach it. You can wrap a couple of friends in mummy bandages and they can play at being Undead by popping out of the coffin at the opportune moment.

Make sure there's some spooky music playing in the background, or you can make strange ghostly woooooooooooo sounds by running a comb along waxed paper (it's true!).

Or, for scary background sound and pictures, drape your TV in black sheets and play special Hallowe'en videos all night long: this is a great way to get a soundtrack of creepy music and screaming, etc. Horror flicks are great ghoulish mood enhancers.

Here's a list of some Nation favourites:

The Hallowe'en series (the first and 5th ones are best).

Nightmare on Elm Street (#1)

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre (an art film and a trash-horror movie in one).

Psycho

Frankenstein and Bride of Frankenstein

Dawn of the Dead (best zombie movie ever!)

Alien (scary monsters)

Dracula (the 1931 black-and-white version starring Bela Lugosi version is the scariest)

The Haunting (best movie about haunted houses)

Invasion of the Body Snatchers

Night of the Living Dead

The Shining

And of course....no Halloween is complete without a Tim Burton flick. *Edward Scissorhands* and *Sleepy Hollow* would do fine, but *The Nightmare Before Christmas* is crucial: this animated modern classic is probably the best movie for parents and kids to watch together because everybody loves it. Everybody.



WILL ILL ILL ON THE GIR ILL ILL ILL

by Will Nicholls



Halloween is just around the corner and it's time to get ready for the scariest night of the year. Below are a few snack ideas for you and the little ghouls. Enjoy and add all the arsenic you want to any of the recipes.

Spider Pizza

- 1 prebaked pizza crust or prepackaged pizza dough
- ½ jar of pizza sauce
- 1 ½ cups mozzarella cheese
- Pizza toppings (anchovies, mushrooms, peppers, pepperoni, ham, etc)
- ½ cup ricotta cheese or cream cheese
- two spoonfuls of milk
- green and red food coloring
- a plastic spider

Lay the pizza dough onto a round tray (or a cookie sheet) in a round shape. Spread pizza sauce and toppings over dough, sprinkle cheese on top.

Follow the directions for baking the pizza in the oven. In the meantime, mix together the ricotta, milk and 8 drops of green food coloring and 2 of red food coloring and put mixture into a squeeze bottle.

When the pizza is done, draw a spiderweb on top with the squeeze bottle, and put on the plastic spider. Cut the pizza into slices, and make sure a grownup gets the piece with the spider on top.

Pumpkin Spread

- 1 cup of dried apricots
- 1 can pumpkin pie filling
- 2/3 cups pumpkin pie filling
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon

Soak the apricots overnight in warm water. In the morning, grind them into a paste and mix together with the other ingredients in a pan. Boil and stir often, then reduce heat and simmer

for 20 minutes.

Cool. You can put this into jars and eat it on toast like a juicy jelly.

Devil-cake Spiders

- 8 devil's food cupcakes (see below)
- chocolate frosting
- 32 licorice whips
- 16 red cinnamon candies
- For the Cupcakes*
- 4 ounces unsweetened chocolate
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup hot brewed coffee
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten



For the cupcakes, preheat the oven to 350°F. Line 8 muffin cups with liners. Melt the chocolate in a heavy saucepan. Remove the pan from the heat. Sift the sugar, flour, baking soda, and salt together into a large bowl. In a medium bowl, whisk together the hot coffee, sour cream, and vegetable oil. Whisk in the eggs, then stir in the chocolate. Add the wet ingredients to the dry ingredients and stir until everything is mixed up and gooey. Fill the cupcake liners about two-thirds full. Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center of a cupcake comes out clean, 20 to 25 minutes. Cool. Frost the cupcakes with the frosting. Stick 8 lengths of licorice into both sides of the cupcakes, for legs. Stick 2 red candies between the spider's front legs for creepy eyes.

Pumpkin Spice Muffins

- 2/3 cup nonfat dry milk
- 6 tablespoons flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- sugar substitute to equal 12 teaspoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup canned pumpkin
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/2 cup grated carrots or zucchini
- 4 tablespoons raisins



Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Combine sifted dry ingredients in large mixing bowl and combine wet ingredients in a

separate bowl. Mix just until everything is incorporated - batter should be lumpy.

Overmixing can cause muffins to be too tough.

Bake 350 degrees for 20 minutes and serve warm.

Pumpkin Pie Spice

1/4 cup ground cinnamon
1 tablespoon ground ginger
2 teaspoons ground nutmeg
1 teaspoon ground allspice
1 teaspoon ground cloves

just blend all ingredients

Spicey Pumpkin Bread

1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin puree
4 eggs
1 cup vegetable oil
2/3 cup water
3 cups white sugar
3 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking soda
1 teaspoons salt
1 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
1/4 teaspoon ground ginger

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Grease and flour three 7x3 inch loaf pans.

In a large bowl, mix together pumpkin puree, eggs, oil, water and sugar until well blended.

In a separate bowl, whisk together the flour, baking soda, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, cloves and ginger.

Stir the dry ingredients into the pumpkin mixture until just blended.

Pour into the prepared pans.

Bake for about 50 minutes in the preheated oven. Loaves are done when toothpick inserted in center comes out clean.

Pumpkin Seeds Roasted

Don't waste the seeds after cooking your pie or making jack-o-lanterns. Instead, roast and salt the seeds for a delicious and nutritious snack. Let the children slosh through the fibers in pursuit of the slippery seeds, it is so much fun... for them.

1 quart water
2 Tablespoons salt
2 cups pumpkin seeds
1 Tablespoon vegetable oil or melted, unsalted butter

Preheat oven to 250°F. Pick through seeds and remove any cut seeds. Remove as much of the stringy fibers as possible. Bring the water and salt to a boil. Add the seeds and boil for 10 minutes. Drain, spread on kitchen towel or paper towel and pat dry. Place the seeds in a bowl and toss with oil or melted butter.

Spread evenly on a large cookie sheet or roasting pan. Place pan in a preheated oven and roast the seeds for 30 to 40 minutes. Stir about every 10 minutes, until crisp and golden brown. Cool the seeds, then shell and eat or pack in air-tight containers or zip closure bags and refrigerate until ready to eat.

Tasty, healthy maggot cake

You need:

One carrot cake (recipe below)

One batch of cream cheese icing (recipe below)

Green food colouring

Two handfuls of Gummy snakes

Cake

1 cup all purpose flour

1 teaspoon baking soda

1/2 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

1 cup brown sugar

1/2 cup canola oil

2 large eggs

2 cups grated peeled carrots

1/2 cups coarsely chopped walnuts

1 tablespoon ground ginger

Icing

5 ounces cream cheese (such as Philadelphia), room temperature

2 1/2 tablespoons unsalted butter, room temperature

1 cups powdered sugar

For cake: Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter a 9-inch-round cake pans. Flour it, too. Whisk flour, baking soda, salt and cinnamon in medium bowl to blend. Whisk sugar and oil in large bowl until well blended. Whisk in eggs. Add flour mixture and stir until blended. Stir in carrots, walnuts and ginger.

Bake cakes until a toothpick inserted into center comes out clean, about 30-40 minutes. Cool cakes in pans 15 minutes. Turn out onto plate.

To make the icing, Beat cream cheese and butter in large bowl until light and fluffy. Add powdered sugar and beat until well blended. Beat in drops of green food colouring until icing is a satisfyingly gooey colour of green. Chill icing until just firm enough to spread, 30 minutes.

Spread with icing. Decorate with gummy snakes and other bug-shaped or other candies. (Can be made 1 day ahead. Chill in the fridge. Let stand at room temperature 30 minutes before serving.)



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THE GREAT LAW OF CHANGE

By: Gerald Taiaiake Alfred (Previously published in *The Eastern Door*)

What would the future be like if we were serious about making change? It's become increasingly clear to people in First Nations communities (if not their leaders) that until we restore our traditional governments to power and recover the strength of our unity, Canadian politicians will continue to use the financial and political power they hold over their employees in the band council system to manipulate, frustrate and humiliate all of our people.

What would we do if we were really serious about changing things and breaking from the colonial chains that have been placed around our neck and which we have become so fond of carrying around? The first thing we would do is have a hard look at the whole Indian Act system itself: the Department of Indian Affairs, the band councils, the Assembly of First Nations, and all of the other organizations paid for by the Canadian government that purport to represent our people. Is it possible to use this system of organization to move towards self-determination? Of course not. All political economic logic and all our collective experience, not to mention plain common sense, tell us that it is impossible to achieve our goals while we are burdened with not only the Indian Act itself, but with the system of government it has brought into our communities. The fact that we still use and support this system and all of its parts - its law, its money, its institutions, its ideas - proves that we're not serious about our own self-determination. If we are saying to the world that we're in a struggle for the survival of our nations and fighting for our inherent rights as Indigenous peoples, then I'm afraid we're all talk and no action, my Brothers and Sisters.

There are three principles by which any approach to making change should be judged: Will it create real and immediate improvements in people's lives? Will it help people realize their own strength and give them pride? Will it give us more power?

Let's be honest: Does anything done by or within the Indian Act system ever achieve any of these goals? All of our actions, whether as "national" organizations or local band councils, are really limited to reacting to the federal government's policies and in the end are focused on implementing the federal government's agenda and ideas. Nothing that happens in the system is in any sense focused on the real and immediate needs and concerns of people in our communities.

Every part of the system, from band councils to the Department of Indian Affairs, is concerned not with strengthening our people but with building its own power, meaning that the only power relationships that are questioned and fought over are the ones between the different parts of the Indian Affairs system - band councillors fighting with tribal councils over money, regional chiefs vying with each other for power and uniting against the National Chief, organizations arguing for more responsibility and money from the Department. It all happens under the same, unquestioned supremacy of the system.

The first step in a serious movement for change would be to put it bluntly, proving to ourselves and our adversaries that we love our land and our rights more than we love the Indian Act system. We have to make some sacrifices and bite the hand that is feeding us to prove that we love our cultures and our nations

and that we want them to survive - but everyone knows that it takes more than just words to prove one's love.

First Nations governments have been set up by the federal government to ensure that we cooperate with federal and provincial government authority whose agenda has always been, and still remains, focused on destroying our power and assimilating our people. Our leaders talk about wanting to empower our people and achieve self-determination. But these words are always spoken from within the Indian Act system, which was created for the sole purpose of keeping us dependent and weak. Does that make sense to you?

Someone once explained it to me in very simple terms, asking the question, "What's the first thing to do when you find yourself in a hole six feet deep and you want to get out? Stop digging." Those words of wisdom were like a slap in the face that turned me right around and woke me up to the reality that it is impossible to do good in an evil system. Being that we're organized for our own destruction under the Indian Act, and do not doubt that we are, the first logical step to empowerment and self-determination would be to just stop digging ourselves deeper into the hole: Stop cooperating with the Indian Act system and stop giving it power over us!

The political landscape is so well-known and the facts of our political life so clear now that any plan of action or any leader not calling for the immediate rejection of the Indian Act system must be seen as an ally and supporter of the power of that same system - no matter how radical that plan or that leader claims to be in rhetoric, or what excuses for inaction that are offered. Our people have suffered long enough and they are totally disillusioned and frustrated by the Indian Act system, with its combination of divisive and ineffective band councils on the local level and corrupt and ineffective organizations on the "national" level. It's time to acknowledge that the root of the problem is the system itself and our own participation in it. We need to, in a sense, "de-organize" and reject the Indian Act system from our communities and remove the Indian Act mentality from our lives.

I know that the path I am pointing towards is not easy or smooth; it is a rough, uphill path that will demand courage and will involve much conflict and sacrifice on our part. But the easy, smooth path is the way of surrender. The rough, uphill path of change is the only one that leads to a place where we can survive as nations with dignity. We must take the first steps now, and start bringing our practice into line with our rhetoric. What is the alternative to the Indian Act chain hung around our neck? This is not a question that can be answered by one person. The alternative will emerge out of our struggle to redefine who we are and how we relate to each other. But I do believe that there are three basic organizing principles to start with which, if built into the foundations of any new Indigenous foundations of any new Indigenous organization, will ensure that real changes in the lives of our people will be advanced.

WE must reinstate traditional forms of governance in our communities. We must recreate traditional alliances among our nations. We must be independent from the Canadian government financially and politically.

Also, a new strategy and a whole new approach to making change will be needed to match up with these new Indigenous forms of organization. As it is now, the constant stream of empty threats and high-pitched indignant whine flowing from our Indian Act politicians' mouths is not only annoying and tiresome but totally useless. If we were serious about changing our situation, instead of all the time complaining about not having power and not being respected by white people, we would be taking positive steps to build power and gain respect. We would be working hard to develop the capacity to advance intelligent, non-violent strategies of social, political, and economic confrontation

to force the Canadian government to recalculate the cost of defending its Indian Act system. This is the way to put the "Great Law of Change" into practice.

The Great Law of Change is real simple: Change takes power, power takes organization, and organization takes unity. We could have all of those things if we really wanted them; and we could change our situation very quickly if we really wanted to do it. But, being seriously committed to making change in our lives would mean doing what is necessary to make change happen, not just talking about it.



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Cree Regional Authority
Administration régionale crié

The Board of Directors of Aanischaaukamikw,
in collaboration with the Cree Regional Authority,
is seeking applications for:

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AANISCHAAUKAMIKW CULTURAL INSTITUTE



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The Executive Director is responsible for the effective and efficient management of all aspects of Aanischaaukamikw during this formative period, based on the initial policies and directions as approved by the Board of Directors. The holder of this position will carry out the following tasks:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS / POLICY

Provide guidance to the board in developing the permanent Board structure, and ensure that the full board is appointed and briefed. Implement the vision and direction of Aanischaaukamikw, and advise and consult with the Board on all policy matters. On behalf of the board, represent Aanischaaukamikw to outside agencies and institutions.

CONSTRUCTION OF AANISCHAAUKAMIKW

Conduct an analysis of Aanischaaukamikw's programming as planned and its relation to the proposed building, identify any anomalies and recommend alterations, if appropriate. Oversee the construction of the Aanischaaukamikw office in Oujé-Bougoumou.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Establish the permanent office of Aanischaaukamikw in Oujé-Bougoumou and consolidate all aspects of the administration at this office. Define job descriptions, and hire and supervise necessary support staff. Prepare and monitor the annual budget.

PROGRAMMING

Identify staff required to carry out Aanischaaukamikw programs, ensure the preparation of training plans, and begin hiring program. Provide leadership to staff to ensure that Aanischaaukamikw programs are carried out. Monitor results of programming in the Cree communities and adjust where appropriate.

FINANCIAL PLANNING AND FUND-RAISING

The Executive Director will ensure the financial health of the Institute through close attention to existing and new funding sources from all levels of government and Cree entities. He / she will prepare and submit grant applications in a timely manner, monitor execution and ensure required reporting, and support and oversee fund-raising initiatives.

EXPERTISE AND SKILLS REQUIRED

- Extensive experience in the management of cultural and/or educational organizations;
- Strong background in the development and supervision of professional and technical staff;
- Knowledge and expertise relating the priorities and programs of Aanischaaukamikw, with the capacity to speak publicly on Cree culture from an informed perspective;
- Excellent communication skill; experience in fund-raising is an important attribute;
- Commitment to team-work.

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Adopt A River

by Will Nicholls



I often wonder if Hydro-Quebec directors ever weigh the benefits of having the premier of Quebec's Montreal office in their building against the number of protests that happen in front of their headquarters. This was one of the protests that involved both Hydro-Quebec and Premier Landry as a representative of the Quebec government. Quebecers from all over the province were protesting to save small rivers in Quebec from being dammed. Some 40 of Quebec's top entertainers were on hand to support the Adopt a River protest with such heavy hitters as Richard Desjardins, Roy Dupuis, Suzanne Methot, Paul Piche, Richard Seguin and Florent Volland, just to name a few.

Even Hydro-Quebec sent out a spokesperson who insisted that they were environmentally friendly and didn't want to offend anyone. He pointed out the agreements signed with the Inuit and the Cree this year as proof of the new corporate spirit of Hydro-Quebec. Though his message seemed to be at least politely received it did not elicit the cheers that other speakers received. I had a chance to talk to a few people while covering the event.

Roy Dupuis was certainly first on my list. You may remember him from the *Nikita* series or the mini-series *The Last Chapter*.





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Dupuis said he got involved because he heard about the cause and wanted to do something. Dupuis thinks Adopt a River is a good thing for Quebec. "What we are trying to do is to give information to the people about what's really happening. That's the point of Adopt a River," he told *The Nation*. Dupuis says he sees private companies trying to own a resource that belongs to everyone. "We're talking to the Quebec government to do something about this. We should not accept these conditions and go forward with these plans," said Dupuis. He encourages people to "join us and adopt a river." The only Cree not with the media was Billy Capissit, a Ouje-Bougoumou resident. Capissit said he came down to join his friend Eric Gagnon of Rupert River Reverence. Capissit said he hopes to save the Rupert River. "It would be a disaster if it's flooded," Capissit said. He said that the Rupert was a pristine river and he considers it to be a heritage river for everyone. Capissit said he hoped that the world hears all about all the rivers in Quebec that need saving and people Adopt a River.



Eric Gagnon came in from Chibougoumou, driving most of the night and sleeping in his car. He said he came even though the event isn't against the big dams but rather over the issue of small private dams. "We are taking every opportunity to show ourselves and we think a dam is a dam and a river is a river and we wanted to support them," Gagnon said. He expects he will get some help out of this himself. Gagnon said that the same filmmaker who made a documentary on the small dams is planning to do one on the Rupert River. The filmmaker has teamed up with Roy Dupuis to do the film on the Rupert battle. Gagnon says his list of contacts with other groups in Quebec grows daily. "It's important that we stand together in the defense and protection of rivers," said Gagnon.

Gagnon says Rupert River Reverence is considering a tour because his group feels that Crees may be having second thoughts about the deal. "We would like to have the opportunity to provide them with the information they should have always had and never got," said Gagnon. "We would like to have some experts with us to give specific examples of the impacts." Gagnon said that Hydro-Quebec is not currently doing impact studies for EM-1 and the Rupert Diversion. "They are doing studies to show these projects are viable," he said, adding it wasn't a neutral study. Gagnon warns that when the consultation process takes place in a few years that there will probably be no counter-expertise to what Hydro-Quebec will propose and the studies being done by the promoters. He compared this to tobacco companies being responsible for reports on determining whether or not cigarettes can affect your health. As a result of this Gagnon says that the consultation process is flawed and not a tool he expects will save the Rupert River from diversion.

"I just wanna ride my bicycle"

Kwanah Sioui-Moar - downhill mountain biker

by tsa

People use the expression "It's like riding a bike" in reference to a task that's easy to do, as if it's almost second nature, one that seems to require no thought or skill whatsoever. Riding a bicycle may be a relatively easy thing to do next to, say, riding an ostrich. However, imagine careening down the side of a mountain on a two wheeled bicycle at speeds of up to 95 km per hour, with boulders, rocks, tree roots and the odd tree in your path around which you must maneuver lest you run into it and make acquaintance with more than you care to, or do a nasty face plant. This is the sport of downhill mountain biking, where a 3 km long course takes about 3 or 4 minutes to complete, depending on how finely tuned the bike is and how mentally prepared you are. A chain that falls off half way can cost you the race, as can jumpy nerves, a misjudged tree or an unseen rock. It's funny that we think of training for sports in terms of the physical aspect: push-ups and sit-ups, weight training, running and repetition, repetition, repetition - a thousand free throws, a hundred pucks in the top right hand corner of the net, or even a bucketful of balls hit at the golfing range. We often forget about the mental training and the visualization that must accompany sports. In downhill bicycle racing these aspects are key to success.

Just ask Kwanah Sioui-Moar, an 18-year-old Huron-Cree from Wendake, Quebec, who burst onto the scene a few years ago. He has recently returned from the World Championships in Tempur, Austria. The "Arrow" as he's nicknamed, competed there with over 90 of the best downhill specialists from around the world on a very tough course and placed a very respectable 38th. This was his first ever performance at a competition of this calibre, where there were television crews and journalists every which way you turned. This was also his first trip to Europe. Kwanah says he was very nervous and had put a lot of pressure on himself in the weeks leading up to the competition. He and his team arrived a week before the race to adjust to the time difference and the altitude difference and do the other preparations needed. This involved walking over every inch of the course, noting each and every rock, root and tree, then visualizing lines that would work and allow him to descend to the finish line before everyone else.

It's a tricky job because speed and skill are determining factors at every point: if you go too fast around a corner, you may lose control and smash into a tree; if you don't have enough speed going off a jump, you may not be able to clear other obstacles. After the visualization, one must try the various lines to see which is best and then work on the sections that present any problems. With so many aspects to keep in mind, having excellent visualization skills and fierce mental strength are essential. Kwanah, who rarely crashes, had two crashes at this competition but he chalks it up to nerves. He sees it as a good learning experience and is determined not to make the same mistakes again.

Now at home during the off-season, which lasts from October to April, Kwanah is back at school. The length of a downhill

biking career can extend until one is 35 years old. As Kwanah is only 18, he doesn't know if he'll compete until that age. Whenever he does decide to leave competition, he would like to be able to get

a job as a coach or a representative of some aspect of the sport.

For now, though, he's doing what he does best and what he loves to do, which hasn't always been easy. Kwanah says that when he was younger and told people he was going to be a champion mountain biker, people were always discouraging him, telling him it wasn't possible. So he stopped talking about it and kept at it. Now he's not only the Quebec Champion, but he's also the Canadian champion and is busy taking on the rest of the world. He's thankful for his parents' mental and moral support, and the support of all his sponsors. Kwanah doesn't smoke, drink or do drugs. He says it's important to have a goal in life, to do what you have to do to achieve it, and be the best you can be at all times, the rest will follow. Words from the wise, when walking, just walk; when sitting, just sit; above all, don't wobble.



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Randall Pachanos-Wasipabano

by Dolores Audet-Washipabano

It's been a while since I wrote to the Cree Nation about our Cree athletes. I have been watching a lot of games, talked to many athletes and parents, but most of all heard so many good stories. I first would like to wish luck to Helen Gunner in her decision to join Holy Cross school in NCAA athletic program in the USA... Way to go Helen!

I also would like to share the following two stories... One happens in the summertime while the other one awaits for each winter to come back.

The parents of little Randall Pachanos-Wasipabano, Robin and Thomas Wasipabano from Chisasibi, are pursuing their education in Hull, Quebec. Having to take summer classes, summer activities were to be found to keep little Randall busy and happy. From all summer activities available in the area, they decided to enroll him in baseball...without knowing the special crusade their little boy would take them to... Read the article by Ron Burnett.

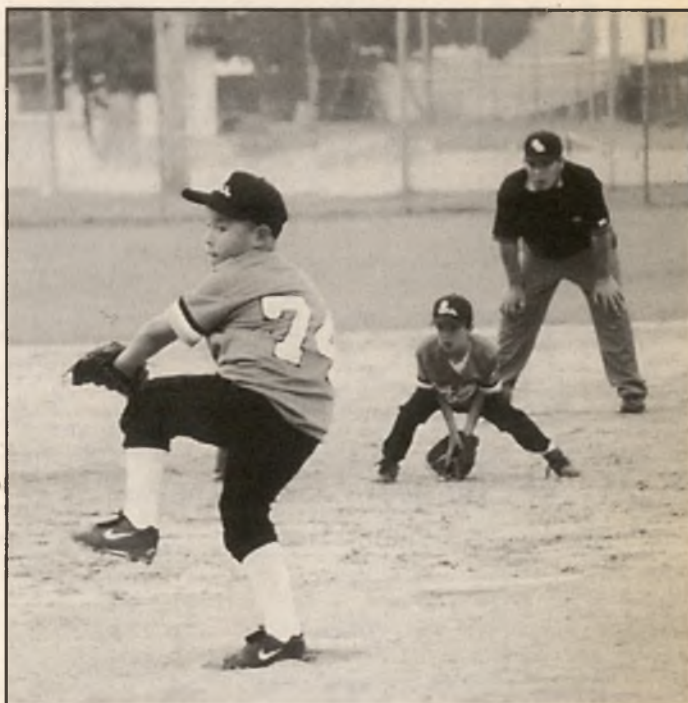
The lad from Chisasibi stars on the baseball diamond

By Ron Burnett

This past spring and summer I had the distinct pleasure of coaching Randall Pachanos-Wasipabano in baseball. Randall now resides in Hull, but his hometown is Chisasibi. Our team was Hull-Duguay Sports and we played in the competitive Atom division (8- and 9-year-olds). Being in the competitive division meant our team was comprised of the best 8- and 9-year-old players from Hull and we played our 20-game regular season against teams of the best players from each of the other towns in the Outaouais region of Quebec. With playoffs, our season concluded in the middle of August.

I first met Randall back in April, when try-outs for the team were held. The two assistant coaches and I were all surprised by this youngster who threw rockets and hit rockets. That youngster was Randall and I was even more surprised when I looked at my list of players who were trying out and saw that Randall was only 7 years old and would not turn 8 until later in the summer. "Man, what a player" is what I thought and Randall proved again and again throughout the season that, indeed, he is one great player. Even more importantly he also proved what a fine young man he is – a true sportsman admired and liked by his teammates, coaches and the parents of all our team's players.

I thought I'd note some highlights of our season as examples of Randall's achievements. I can only do some examples because if I were to list them all, my article would be too long.



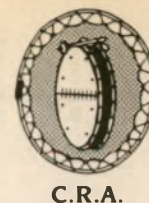
In addition to being a terrific and consistent pitcher throughout the season, Randall also showed some great defensive play. I'll never forget the quarterfinal game we played in the St-Jean Chrysostome tournament in Quebec City. That tournament is one of the biggest Atom competitive division tournaments in the province and attracts teams from all over Quebec. To make it to the quarterfinals is quite an accomplishment. Well, our team did that one better, we made it to the semifinals, thanks in no small part to the play, which I'm about to describe.

Let me set the stage – it's the other team's last at-bat in the 6th inning of our quarterfinal game (Atom games are 6 innings). We're ahead 11-9 but the other team has been chipping away at our lead over the last few innings. Momentum is strongly in the other team's favor when their batter takes his stance at the plate. You can just feel the tension. The pitch is thrown and, oh no, the batter hits a screaming line drive, I mean an absolute rocket, towards shortstop. Before I even have time to think, I see Randall at shortstop diving to his left and the line drive pounding into his glove. He caught it! Everybody lets out a huge cheer and the tide has turned. The inning ends quickly after that and we're off to the semifinals. All I can say is I've been involved in baseball pretty well all my life and that, my friends, is one play I will never forget. It is plays like that, at critical times like that, contributing to our team's effort to win, which make life-long memories and baseball the great sport that it is.

Randall also accomplished something entirely unique this



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Thank you



year. He was the only 8-year-old who made the Outaouais team, which represented the Outaouais region in this year's Quebec provincial baseball championships. The Outaouais team was an all-star team made up of the best players from each of the six Atom competitive teams in the Outaouais region. All the boys on that team were 9 years old, except for one who was 8 years old and that was Randall. I told Randall and his parents how proud they should be of that accomplishment, and they rightly were. I was proud of him as well.

I am very pleased that Randall chose to play the great game of baseball this year and I hope he continues. With his talent, who knows, maybe one day we'll see him in the Major Leagues. Whether he makes the Major Leagues or not, the fact remains that youngsters experience and learn a lot of positive things from playing organized baseball, which they can apply throughout their life no matter what they choose to do: teamwork, how to win with grace and how to lose with dignity. Randall experienced and learned all those things this baseball season. As Randall's head coach I want to say, "Well done Randall! You're a heckuva ball player and a heckuva young man!"

In closing, I would like to thank both Randall's dad, Thomas and The Nation for giving me the opportunity to write this article about Randall. I consider it an honor to have been asked, and I hope you've enjoyed it.

Let us know:

Is there a powwow, gathering, festival, tournament or other community event that you want people to know about?

Is there something that the company or organization that you work for is doing that should be noticed by others in Native America?

Is there someone in your community such as an Elder or other role model that you think deserves to be recognized?

What are your politicians up to?

Is there something that is hurting Native people and needs to be brought to light so that it can be put to an end?

What issues (local, national, and international) do you think aren't getting the press they deserve?

Do you have a story that would make people laugh?

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What You Should Know

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◆ **Who will need the new Permanent Resident Card:** "Permanent residents" are people who have applied and been accepted to live in Canada. Permanent residents travelling outside of Canada as of December 31, 2003 will need this card to re-enter Canada. Canadian citizens are not eligible for the Permanent Resident Card.

◆ **Becoming Canadian:** Permanent residents who can become Canadian citizens are encouraged to apply for their citizenship.

◆ **When To Apply For Your Permanent Resident Card:** Applications are now available. They will be processed based on the year you became a permanent resident of Canada. Check the chart below to see in which month you should apply. For example, if your year of landing as a permanent resident was 1998, you should submit your application in May 2003. There is no need to apply earlier.

YEAR OF LANDING	WHEN TO SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION
2002	October 15 to November 30, 2002
2001	December to February 2003
2000	March & April 2003
1996 - 1999	May 2003
1992 - 1995	June 2003
1988 - 1991	July 2003
1980 - 1987	August 2003
1973 - 1979	September 2003
Before 1973	ANYTIME after October 2002



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100 - BIRTHS

Congratulations to Jennifer Labbe and Eric Snowboy on the birth of their daughter JAYDENE, born in Val D'Or on September 25th 2002. I wish you all the BEST!!! May you share many happy, joyful moments with your precious baby girl. Take good care of her! Love and prayers... Mom Alice Labbe.

To my precious grand daughter Jaydene. Words cannot describe how I felt when I first saw you, especially when I held you in my arms. I couldn't hold my tears of joy. I am so proud and grateful to have such a sweet and cuddly grandchild like you. A little someone to love and to hold. I promise grandma will be here for you. You'll always be special to us. May the Good Lord bless and keep you in his loving care. Lots of Love, Hugs and Kisses. From Grandma who adores you! Alice Labbe xoxoxoxo

Congrats! to Nathalie & Richard Iserhoff for the safe arrival of their son "Nicholas Charles" born on October, 2002. A l'il bro for Charlie. Best wishes to you all and take care of your bundle of joy. From your cuz in Nemaska; Brenda-Rose, Valerish, Patricia & Tyra-Lynnsh (Nemaska).

Congratulations to Peterson Brien and his girlfriend on the birth of their baby. Take care of your bundle of joy. And congratulations to the Brien grandparents. From Ottereyes Family in Chisasibi.

101 - BIRTHDAYS



HAPPY HAPPY 8th BIRTHDAY to Dearest JAIMEE MacLEOD on September 17th 2002. Have fun my girl! Love, Mom in Thunder Bay, ON. xoxoxoxoxo

Happy birthday to a very good friend of mine, Sherry on Oct. 9. I'll

cut the crap and just wish you a happy birthday...cause you deserve it. Getting older is hard you know....Your buddy always...Nellie

MINI ME will be celebrating her Birthday on October 30. Happy Birthday Nadine! Miss ya!! from your "Big Me" in Mississini.

I would like to wish a very special birthday to Amy Lee Chemaganish on October 29th, and to George and John Chemaganish on November 2nd and 3rd and to Minnie Chemaganish November 7th, and to my brother Matthew Chemaganish on November 16th and Thomas Chemaganish on November 15th in Ottawa. We miss you guys and hope to see you soon!! We would also like to wish a very Happy 3rd

Birthday to Stanley Nabinacaboo on October 29th, in Kawawa. From: Gregory, Mark & Annika Tooma and Joanne & Julia Ann Chemaganish

Birthday Greetings going out to my brother John-Paul Wapachee on October 6, 2002. I hope you had a great day with your family...lucky it was Sunday... If you're birthday fell on a Monday, you would've been at work all day and got home tired after work. Now that's not fun. Another bundle of joy is arriving soon, I'm sooo excited! A "hello" to Angela in Val D'Or...Hey! Jace, you're going to be a big sister soon...that is cute! We love you all! From; Brenda-Rose, Valerish, Patricia & Tyra-Lynn'sh.

I can hardly believe my eyes Son! You will turn 20 years old on October 1st. It seems like yesterday I held you in my arms when you were born. Anyway, congratulations on your birthday Billy John Brien. Happy Birthday and we love you, always will love you the way we loved you when you were just born. And please don't get into drinking Son. From Mom & Dad.

Happy Birthday to Caroline Sam and Daisy Cowboy on October 4th, to Eradley Sam on October 5th, to Calvin Cowboy on October 16th and to Gregory Sam on September 21st. From the Ottereyes Family.

Happy 3rd Birthday! We would like to say Happy B'Day to our son and bro Brendl John Ottereyes on October 16th. Hope you enjoy your day. We love you so much. From Mom and Dad and your sister Caitlyn-Joy (Chisasibi) xoxoxox

Happy Birthday to Calvin Cowboy on October 16th - same day as mine. hope we celebrate together. Hope you have fun. Once again Happy Birthday and many more to come. From friend, Brendl (BJ) XOXOXO

We would like to say Happy Birthday to our boyfriend Gregory Sam. We will celebrate his B'Day on October 21st. Have fun but don't party too much. With lots of kisses. From your two girlfriends, you know who. PS: please think about us on your special day. Xoxoxoxo

I would like to say Happy Birthday to my friend Helen Bobbish. She will celebrate her Birthday on October 26th. Have a blast on your Birthday. Hope you have many more to come. Love in friendship, Sarah.

On September 25th was our daughter Erica's Birthday! We wish we could have been there to celebrate your Birthday with you. On June 18th your son Blake Clayton James Gilpin Happyjack was born weighing 8 lbs. 12 oz. We've watched you

take care of him and the way you and Conrad show your love for him has made us very happy and proud. We wish you all the best in life. We love you and Blake so much and we miss you. Take care and God bless you. Love, Mom & Dad (Charlotte & Eric).

Happy birthday to my honey and best friend B.S on Oct 01. I am very thankful for all the little things you do for us (our little family). You are a great father to our children, you give them life they will be grateful for. We have gone through a lot this year and I want to thank you for everything, for sticking by me through thick and thin. You lifted my spirit when I felt like giving up. You made me smile when I lost hope, you are a true friend and I am



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truly blessed to have you in my life. So I wish you many wonderful days and hope that your birthday wishes come true. I love you forever and with all my heart. R.K

A very important person in our lives will be celebrating his birthday on Oct 01. and we would like to wish him a happy birthday and many more "our own little special birthday parties" to come. We are very lucky to have you as our dad because you are the most caring, loving, fun and funny dad. We are very proud of you. From your Angels Shequin, Susannah and Alexander. P.S Love you lots and "MUCH"

102 - WEDDINGS

We would like to congratulate our friends Kathleen and Gabriel Masty on their wedding on August 23, 2002. We wish you all the best in your new lives with little Angelina (Angie's). May God bless you with good health, wealth and prosperity. Take good care of each other. From: Rachel, Bruno and Kids. P.S we really enjoyed your wedding and it was really nice.

103-ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Anniversary to Shirley and Adrian Chiskamish on October 21st 2002. We wish you all the best in life and many more years to come. With love, Ottereyes Family (Chis.)

Happy 23rd Anniversary to our parents, grandparents; Rena and James Ottereyes on October 23rd 2002. We love you both very much. With lots of love from your children and grandchildren. XOXXO

300- PERSONALS

Hi everyone out there! I'm looking for friendly chatters around the James Bay area between the ages of 23 and up. I am 23 yrs old female from the James Bay area..here is my hotmail: redroses336...Thanks hope to chat with you soon.

A big thank you going out to Our parents, our brothers and sisters, the brides maids, the grooms men, Eric & Sharon Cheezo. Kevin & Darlene Diamond, Stella Wapachee, Brenda R. Jolly, Seanna R/skin, Noreen Moar, Jane Bobbish, Ella Swallow, Shawnessy Swallow, Kathleen Neeposh, Ellen Tanoush, Beatrice Trapper, Marlene J. Pash, Rebecca Jolly, Kristy Mettaweskum, and all the helpers at the Feast (setting up & catering). Johnny A. Shecapio, Peter Shecapio, Joe Shecapio, Bjorn Olson, Brenda Blacksmith and to the people we forgot to mention.

We want to take this time to say Thank you!! from the bottom of our hearts, for what you have done for us on our wedding (Sept. 20, 2002), we don't know what we would have done without you. May the Good Lord Bless you and your families. Once again, Thanks a million. We could go on forever, on how thankful we are to have people like you, and we hope this means alot to you. Thanx!!!! From: Danny & Deborah Rabbitskin

I would like to say hi to my grandmother in Ouje, Lizzie Cap. I miss you so much, I hope I'll see you soon. Love, Sarah Ottereyes and kids in Chisasibi.

TO SOMEONE I LOVE AND WILL NEVER STOP LOVING: GIRL, U KNOW ITS TRUE, I JUST WANT TO BE WITH YOU, TO LOVE YOU WITH A HEART THAT TRUE, TO LOVE YOU ALL THE TIME, AND TO MAKE YOUR LIFE SHINE, I JUST WANT TO HOLD YOU TIGHT, EVERY DAY AND EVERY NIGHT, I NEED YOU NOW IN MY LIFE, TO BRING ME LIGHT, I NEED YOU NOW BY MY SIDE, FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE, I JUST WANT YOU TO SEE, THAT YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME. GIRL, U KNOW ITS TRUE, I JUST WANT TO BE WITH YOU, TO LOVE YOU WITH A HEART THAT'S TRUE, TO LOVE YOU ALL THE TIME, AND TO MAKE YOUR LIFE SHINE.. WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR GIRL? YOU'RE MY ONLY LIGHT IN THIS

WORLD, NOT A DAY GOES BY, WHEN I'M STILL HERE THINKING OF YOU, NOW I'M JUST HERE, WIPING THIS TEAR FROM MY EYE..WONDERING WHY? CANT YOU SEE? YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE FOR ME, AND YOU MEAN SO MUCH TO ME...FOREVER YOURS, AND FOR ETERNITY, ME!

Matthew Shanush who turned out not much of a shy guy this past summer. Finally grew out of that shy kid, huh?...LOL. I'm glad that

we had a great summer, of course you told me that you couldn't wait to go back. Oh, I'm sorry about that try-out, oh well there's always next year, right? Well anyway you have a great season, you go get 'em. PS - I swear when I hear your voice again, it will make me tremble, and when you smile, your smile will be the invitation in make my imagination go wild...You rock my world!!! (Winking smile) From the same person who can't stop thinking about you...XOXO

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